



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Minutes
Thursday, December 12, 2019
Educational Support Center

PRESENT

Chair	Lee Wolanin	Member, Barre
Vice-Chair	Mark Brophy	Member, Barre
	Dr. Richard Allan	Member, Barre
	Deb Chamberlain	Member, Hubbardston
	David Correia	Member, Hubbardston
	Dave Deschamps	Member, Barre
	William Hansen	Member, Hubbardston
	Fred Jean-Francois	Member, Oakham
	David Marsh	Member, Barre
	Walter Nutter	Member, Oakham
	Marcelino Sarabia	Member, Hardwick
	Spier, Geoffrey	Member, Hardwick
	Peggy Thompson	Member, New Braintree
	Mark Wigler	Member, Hubbardston

Absent:

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sheila Muir	Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Duval	Director of Administrative Services
District Administrators/Staff	Gregory Devine; Sue Musnicki; Christopher Carlson; Colleen Mucha; Adam Couturier; Evan Barringer; Beth Olson; Chris Nosek; and Sheena Butler
Press:	Ellie Downer, Barre Gazette
Town Officials:	Clare Hendra, Oakham FinCom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve the minutes of November 14, 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-3 with Mr. Marsh, Mr. Wolanin & Mrs. Thompson abstaining.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent's Report –

b) Director of Administrative Services

- Presentation of warrants – Payroll Warrants 11 & 12 and AP warrants 14A, 14BV, 15B & 16A were approved by the Warrant Subcommittee.

c) Teacher Advisory Council

- Evan Barringer, President of QRTA, thanked the Committee for their involvement in the programs in the schools and for their investment in the schools and the children in the district.
- d) Student Advisory Council
- MS/HS - Isabel Coviello, Grade 7, reported on the middle school program Quabbin Kids Care. These students plan spirit days and fundraisers to make sure school is a fun, interactive community.
 - Elementary – Maddie Rigney and Cayden Cranston, sixth grade students from Ruggles Lane School spoke to the Committee about sixth grade leadership and the ways in which they help the kindergarten students in the morning as they get off the bus, as well help the younger students in the afternoon at dismissal time. They also spoke about other ways they volunteer in classrooms and with students. The sixth grade class looks forward to continuing their leadership roles at RLS.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Administrative Review
- No report was given
- b) Audit
- No report was given
- c) Budget
- No report was given. Budget process will begin in another month or two.
- d) Central Office
- No report was given
- e) Collective Bargaining
- No report was given. Will start collective bargaining after the first of the year. All collective bargaining agreements are up.
- f) Plant and facilities
- Update on HCS roof – Ms. Duval reported that every Friday there is a conference call with the team. A schematic design is expected before break.
- g) Policy & Review
- JBB – Addition per MASC to Equal Education Opportunities
 - JFABD – Replace entire policy with MASC version – Homeless students: Enrollment Rights and Services
 - JFABE – Update Educational Opportunities for Military Children
 - JFABF – Update Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
 - DK – Regional School District Payment Procedures
 - IMG – Animals in Schools
- Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to place policies JBB, FJABD, JFABE, JFABF, DK, and IMG on the table for 30 day public review.
Motion passed unanimously.
- Blended Learning Update – Moving ahead with the Highlander Institute. QRSD has been asked to share their success with blended learning at the MASSCUE Leadership Conference in March 2020.
 - HS Program of Studies 2020-2021: Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Deschamps to accept the changes to the HS Program of Studies for the 2020-2021 school year.
Motion passed unanimously.
 - Alternative HS Program - The ALP provides opportunities for academic learning and advancement at an accelerated pace that allows our most at-risk students to demonstrate adequate knowledge in the content area and/or grade level. The goal is for each student to meet state and local graduation requirements, or to catch up to their graduating class, by providing differentiated content and instructional approaches. Students are referred to the program by guidance and or administration, and then invited into the program. Discussion ensued in regard to offering this program to students who have already left school in the 19-22 year-old range and the possibility of a separate building to house a program such as this.
- h) Special Education

- Subcommittee meeting was held this evening. Items for discussion included the DESE Focused Tiered Monitoring Report on Civil Rights & Special Education. The onsite visit was held on November 21 and November 22 and works to see if the district is in compliance with Special Education and civil rights. The group looks at three indicators, and found the District to be in compliance in all areas. They also looked at universal standards and found all of those standards being implemented at QRSD. There were no findings on the report. Preschool currently has 38 students at Hardwick and 33 at Ruggles Lane and the waiting lists are fluid. Currently our Lead Clinician role is funded by the 336 Grant, however, when looking at the budget for FY21, there is a need to focus on funding that role out of the budget. In addition, discussion ensued in regard to the difficulty in finding qualified, certified special education teachers.

i) QEMP

- No report was given

j) Technology

- No report was given

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update on lease of New Braintree Grade School – the RFP is currently in draft form and is being vetted by our attorney. A meeting will be held on December 19th with the release of the RFP in February. The District is working on releasing an RFP for both schools at the same time.
- Update on lease of Oakham Center School - The Oakham Selectboard is open to discussing leasing of space at OCS. There are six classrooms available with a separate entrance and restrooms. A committee will be formed as was done for New Braintree, and the opportunity of leasing will be explored.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Dr. Allan reported that he had attended the NJROTC Spaghetti Dinner and that they were expecting anywhere from 300 to 400 people. He commended the cadets whose courtesy was impeccable, as always.
- Dr. Allan also reported that he had attended the varsity boys' basketball practice and it was nice to see the coach teaching skills and strategies.
- Mr. Deschamps reported that he had the opportunity to chaperone 29 seniors from NHS who went to Target and bought gifts for students in the district. Each student has \$30 per child to spend with specifics on each child. Mr. Deschamps said it was heartwarming to see the thought and care that went into each purchase.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for Approval: French Exchange Trip, Liz Beard-Blake: Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve the French Exchange Trip in spring 2021 with the usual provisos. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of the 2020-2021 School Calendar – Discussion ensued in regard to the short summers that students have and having ½ day prior to Thanksgiving and eliminating the Friday before Labor Day as a holiday. Mr. Brophy suggested having the Central Office Subcommittee meet and look at different models of calendars for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Barringer requested that a teacher be part of that discussion because, per contract, the QRTA has a say if the school year will start prior to Labor Day. Motion made by Mr. Brophy and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar. Motion passed by a vote of 11-2-0 with Dr. Allan and Mrs. Chamberlain opposed.
- Massachusetts Rural School Coalition – Request to join/dues – Dr. Muir reported that the Coalition is now a 501c3 entity which had to be done to be eligible to apply for private grant funding. The Coalition

is requesting that the member towns pay an annual fee of \$1,000 to support MRSC to become a sustainable champion for our rural students. These funds will be used to support essential costs required to operate the MRSC as a nonprofit.

Motion made by Mr. Wigler and seconded by Dr. Allan to move forward as a member of the Massachusetts Coalition for Regional Schools and pay the annual fee of \$1000.00.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Request for Approval: High School trip to Galapagos Islands, April 2021: Motion made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to approve the High School trip to the Galapagos Islands in April 2021 with the usual provisos. Mr. Sarabia expressed his concern with safety in Ecuador at this time. Mr. Devine expressed that they will watch safety going forward, and, if need be, cancel the trip if safety is a concern.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Allan and seconded by Mr. Brophy to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica A. Bennett
School Committee Secretary

Approved by QRSD School Committee – February 13, 2020